

姫の ためなら 死ねる

kimino
tamenara
shineru

2

くすしろう



BAMBOO COMICS
WIN SELECTION
TAKE SHOBO

*for you, my lady,
I would lay down
my life*

姫^{きみ}の
ためなら
死ねる ②

kimino
tamenara
shineru

くずしろ
COMICS BY KUSUHIRO



C o n t e n t s

chapter 13 ♦ mother	11
chapter 13.5 ♦ Like right now, for instance!	19
chapter 14 ♦ shonagon caught a cold.	27
chapter 15 ♦ the age i started...	39
chapter 16 ♦ our special secret.	45
chapter 17 ♦ i bear you no ill will!	53
chapter 18 ♦ it's important to keep a pure mind.	61
chapter 19 ♦ what?! yikes!	69
chapter 20 ♦ what lies in your breast...	77
chapter 21 ♦ your dark past	87
chapter 22 ♦ you're a grown woman!	93
chapter 23 ♦ tragedy struck.	101
chapter 24 ♦ what ☆ a view! ♥	109



chapter 12.5





My friend and I have a peculiar relationship. She's like a mother or an older sister to me.



But it's
just so
awful...

No,
it's
not!

Why
not?
You let
me read
your
diary
before.

Oh!
Should
I not
have?

Well...
it's just
so terri-
ble...

Pick
them up,
then.

Ack!
Don't
touch
them!

How
did you
manage to
make such
a mess
of these
papers?

Ah!
Don't
look at
that!

Gurk!

What
were
you
writing
this
time?

Oh, I
don't
mind.

Oh...
you don't
have to
pick them
up for
me.

What a
mess!

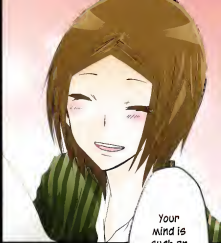
Oh,
it's...
Wait.
You
read
that?!

Gurk!

By
the way,
where's
the next
page
of this
one?



I
like
it.



Your
mind is
such an
interesting
place.



Spending time with her is my favorite thing to do.



...She'll



even
if she
gives
her
heart
to an-
other;
will
she?

never
aban-
don
me



even
if she
gives
her
heart
to an-
other.
Right?

never
aban-
don
me

She'll be with me until I draw my last breath.

❖ chapter 13 ❖



he didn't even realize he was doing it



no Longer interesting



she's already taken care of her father-in-law



hey! that's not fair!

too Late

she's amazing. she's like a grown-up version of Her Majesty, with the same cheer and refinement.

By the way, what is Her Majesty's mother like?

That reminds me... we never introduced ourselves.

Did she just read my mind?

Come to think of it, I don't know their names.

Her of... Majesty...

A grown-up version...

And I'm Sui Chuu-nagon.

I'm Shingane Kossaron...

I have the sudden urge to kill Nichibaka-sama...

Hmm.

The pleasure is mine...

It's a pleasure to meet you.

A chill just went down my spine...

Is something amiss?

The face of someone who swears she's not thinking "That was a proper greeting. If I'd done that, I could have held her hand..."

when did that change?



mother



the end of the world

the process



o3o

premature



so she can catch up

never going to happen



Intentions and responsibility



oddities of Japanese



*The Japanese word she uses, "nyūyaku" can also mean "wife"

❖ chapter 13.5 ❖



what sei shonagon was really like, basically



* Quoted from the 144th section of *The Pillow Book*: In this strip, Kamehime gives the reading "little girl" to the expression for "tiny", giving the phrase an additional meaning: "All little girls are endearing."

** Quoted from the 20th section of *The Pillow Book*

that's not what
"lady-in-waiting" means



the palace is peaceful



*A game in which one competes to create incense. It later turned into a game about describing incense based on its fragrance.



she reported her

straight from the source



* One of the six principal houses of incense at the time

In section 36 of *The Yellow Book*, Shonagon says that she would insist on being first at someone's house, then when the Emperor asks about it, replies that "Of the nice paths to Paradise, I would happily take over the lowest" (meaning that she wouldn't mind being the lowest rank as long as she was allowed to be around the Emperor). The Emperor protests saying "You should wish to be loved first by the one whom you hold first as your own heart." Shonagon finds this response delightful

unconsciously



she knows her place



she has no idea it will be exposed
a thousand years from now

get a room



a plot I shelved because I couldn't
come up with the execution or punchline
and because it was too much of a pain.





How
did this
happen?



...I...

don't think
I can
take
it...

I... never...



Are you
all right,
Shona-
gon...?

Mm...



Shonagon
caught a
cold.

But...
if you're
going to be
sick, you
should
do it in
here!

AUUUGH!
TAKE IT
AWAY.
TAKE IT
AWAY!

a treatable illness



You
look ill.
Are
you all
right?

that morning



My
body is
hot.



My chest aches.

My
heart is
racing.



love?



What are you doing first thing in the morning?

she didn't even
have time to enjoy it

to ask for her daughter's hand



unexpected



from her memories



and so...

certainly not



she snaps far too easily



a sudden spike



yes, yes

this could start an infinite loop



after that...



an easy mark



❖ chapter 15 ❖



you could have all the sex you want!



waking her up



dumbfounded



this is her?

a real comedian



if she were to
talk about herself now



what she's like



conflicted

it's the truth, but not quite what she asked

but
to me,

Twenty-
seven was
seen as an
advanced
age to
begin my
service,

I've been
curious
about you,
Shonagon.

the age
I started
is of little
import-
ance.

as long
as I can
serve
Her Maj-
esty,

and you've
been able to
live as you
pleased all
this time.
Why come
to serve at
court now?

You were
born into a
moderately
prestigious
family.

Be-
cause
...

I'd like a
5-year-old
version of
her, too!!
Oh, but her
current age
really is the
best...

I do
rather
regret
not
meeting her
sooner,
though.

I
said
it!!

Express
Teishi is
here.

she looks like she's
enjoying herself

it would make
for a bad manga, too

What?/
And how
are you
going to
get out
from
here...

Well,
I'd
better
be
going.

I'm
already
in for a
scolding
from
Senkon.

She
followed
my
advice,
I see.

MM...

Sen-
gon.

Please
look
after
Teishi
for me,

Sei
Shen-
gon.

You
must be
a truly
beautiful
person,

Look...
after
her...?

Please
don't
climb up
that!

T-
Takako-
sama!

Th-
thank
you...

...?



Oh.
What a
pity.

You
can't
repeat
the same
joke.

a kid at heart



a vision of the future



AMBIGUOUS



hang in there





◆ fujiwara no takako ◆

she's around 30 in this manga.
she and benkan are about the same age.

i figured i'd make her... someone who's surprisingly
sheewd, despite all her teasing, and she has the playfulness
i failed to incorporate into teishi's character.

Incidentally, before i introduced her,
i was beset by an impulse to include a character with
straight bangs (because i like them), so she ended up being
the character who fit best with my own preferences, inside
and out. if you like her too, come shake my hand!
aren't straight bangs great?



"If you want people to learn a name, have the other characters use it a lot in the story."

SHIROGANE KOSAKON ◆

nobody ever remembers her name.

she makes the witty comebacks when denkan isn't around, points out kou's flaws, and so on and so forth. she's turned out to be surprisingly helpful for me, the author. it's a shame about her name.

...well, whatever.

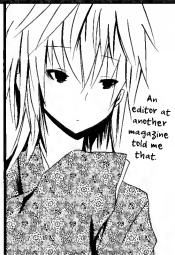
◆ sui chuunagon

nobody ever remembers her name either.

her witty comebacks might be deliberate, or maybe she just completely ignores the vibes everyone else is giving off.

i don't want the people at court to just be a bunch of weirdos, so i think she's an important character. it's a shame about her name.

...well, whatever.



An editor at another magazine told me that.



Like heaven?



a BIT PRIOR



the end is always sudden

the same as always, yet different



I only have eyes for you

where are we headed?



* The original play on words hinges on the expression "to go" (iku), which can also mean "to have an orgasm" and is a homophone for "to pass away"



I consider myself an apt scholar.

I read books.

I write in my diary every day.

How embarrassing.



Aren't they beautiful? I wanted to show them to you.

... Cherry blossoms?



?

And it's embarrassing that I had such inflated expectations.

to properly express my feelings.

They're beautiful...

or rhythm.

But at times like this, I can't find the words.

* The original title is a play on words "acchi" written as "happy"/"joy" plus "death" ("shi") rather than "happy" (sa kuu) plus "shi" as happiness

dying happy *



reactions



Ladies-in-waiting on a cliff *

not even that



how? you're a recluse!

teishi doesn't know yet



* The back of the 2,000-yen bill has a portrait of Murasaki Shikibu and an illustration of a scene from *The Tale of Genji*.
 The front has a picture of the Shimmering, a famous gate in Chiyoda.



but you're not yourself



jumping to conclusions



she
hates
studying,
and is
selfish
a free
spirit.

it can't be!



B-but
this is so
sudden.
Has some-
thing hap-
pened?

Why
are you
saying
that?

You
are my
tutor,
are you
not?



she's
always
glued
to my
side.



that
I must
become
an Expre-
ss like my
cousin.

I simply
remem-
bered



studying,
of her own
free will...
all so she
can become
the Expre-
ssor's con-
sort....

And
here
she
is,



But that
would
mean
she'd
have to...
with the
Expre-
ssor

What?
She
really
wants
to be
an Ex-
press?



I have
greater
need of
you now
than ever
before.

You
don't
need
me any-
more, do
you?



going
through
puber-
ty!?

Don't
tell
me
she's

Laissez-faire

an occupational hazard
(abbreviated)



a special punishment



what to do?



keeping her cool,
no matter what

what are you doing?

...Mura-
saki
Shiki-
bu?

...What
are you
doing?

but
I don't
know
which
room the
Shonagon
is in...

My mo-
mentum
carried
me here,

**What
makes
you
think I'm
enjoying
this?!**

I'm clearly
being abused
here!

I don't
pass judg-
ments on
others'
preferences,
but there
is a time
and place
for that
sort of
thing.

What
am I
do-...

I need
to calm
down.

...Oh.

What
are you
doing
here,
any-
way?

**No, don't
leave me
up here!
Please get
me down!
I'm beg-
ging you!**

I'd like to
speak with
you about
something.
You can
stay up
there while
we talk.

*The original point is that Maruaki wants to "enter" Chome's the main topic of conversation, but instead Shonagon "enters" her dream.

good night



that wasn't her hand *



the inner palace network
moves at fiber-optic speed



can't keep up



no progress



it makes you want to die





**Please
don't!**

It's a
dream
of
mine!!

Can
I put this
2,000-yen
bill in your
cleavage?

❖ Chapter 18 ❖

Apparently this is called "bidding" (*nyuuatsau*).

go on, tell me how you really feel~



I've
known
her for
quite a
while now,
and she's
never
acted
like this
before...

That's
not
what I
meant.



Shoushi-
sama is
acting
strange-
ly?



Oh, I
see
now...

...Hey,
that
was
rude!

Woah!

It's
shaken
me up so
badly, I'm
coming to
you for
advice!



Well, I
suppose
you have
a point
there

...Hey,
that
was
rude!

When
isn't she?

she turns up everywhere

troublesome



biting her head off



should've kept her mouth shut



← FLASHBACK



already influencing her



please don't change

no, that's not what it means



* In the original, Shoushi thinks "Shoushi sounds like 'kiss before bed'" (kiss? (kiss?) plus the sound of being sleepy), so she tries to impress him to kiss and go to bed

end of flashback←

an invisible wall



not a relief after all.



the adult world



what do you mean?



completely ruined



In summer, the night is best!! (・∀・)

*in
that
book.*

*I did
write
that*

*However,
I did not
mean nights
like this one.
It may be
a summer
night,*

*Ah,
but I
wouldn't
want
to give
up dark
nights,
either...*

*Nights
with a full
moon are
especially
nice... If
Aria as
though
something
is about to
happen.*

*Shona-
gon?!*

*I'm
wett-*

**BUT THIS
SWELTERING
NIGHT IS NOT
WHAT I HAD
IN MIND.**

do it



There's a get-together tonight, remember?

death



You need to pull yourself together.



You never listen to people, do you?



just trying to sleep in this heat is an ordeal.



I'm sorry.



Unk! She is mad! Onward!



...I must decline. I'd be headed straight for heaven if I got any hotter to-nights.

turning her brains to mush



she needs to show some maturity



watching your parents flirt



that cooled them off, all right



eek!



frightening



Back to square one

That includes
ghosts
and
spirits,
of
course.

I think
people
fear that
which is un-
certain.

It doesn't have to be like that

Well,
now that
we've
gotten
rid of the
vermin
...

However,
the truly
frightening
is that which
we see
yet cannot
perceive.

because
their
very exis-
tence is
dubious.

Excuse
me?

Do you
have a
scary
story to
tell?

How
about
you, Shu-
nagon?

I've
been
having so
much fun
here that
I forgot
that...

Oh.

Wow,
let's see.
Before
I came
to the
palace...

A scary
story?

WOAH
...?

OTHER
PEOPLE
ARE THE
MOST
TERRIFY-
ING OF
ALL.

A plain
old ghost
story
would be
fine.

Where
should I
start?

The
entire
outside
world was
basically
a terrify-
ing place
to me.

she got bored



a theory



while she was distracted



SCARY



SUMMER MEMORIES





fujiwara no michtaka

I wanted to make him the sort of father who worries a lot, but that also meant he developed a hard-won understanding of the world—second only to Senkan's. you can't help but feel sorry for him, especially seeing how Takako's personality turned out, and yet he's fun to draw, even though he doesn't appear very often.

fujiwara no michinaga

he might be modeled more closely on hikaru genji than on the historical michinaga, but my own prejudices have come into play quite a bit, too....

his stupidity is like sei shonagon's, and yet not, so he's fun to draw, even though he doesn't appear very often.



*You'll be
Fine.*



*You're
strong,
Murasaki.*

*Don't be
ridiculous!*

*who I
thought
would.*

*Not even
the one
person*



*Nobody
under-
stands.*

❖ chapter 20 ❖



BECAUSE IT'S NOT
CONDUCTIVE TO HER EDUCATION

Reading too much into it



going back to sleep

she's not capable of that



remembering all sorts of things



not listening



but not just yet



dismissed...



I understand that, but...



priorities



you should be



chop



and what's behind them, too



how considerate





That doesn't mean you can solve it all on your own.

...But this is my problem...

If there's something weighing on your mind, spit it out.



Get it all off your chest. You need to settle this.

...I've those memories...

But... I'd rather not.

We don't want a repeat of what happened before.

And helping you will benefit my daughter, too.

Your



if your knowledge is this lacking.

I'm amazed you can serve at court

❖ chapter 21 ❖

Dark Past...

her adolescence



← some flashbacks



It was her adolescence



she really is



watch what you say



completely expressionless



maybe not



further into the past



she forgot



bumping into each other



behind the clouds

I don't really get it, but...

I see her
for the
first
time in
ages,

I'll
catch
you next
time.
Sorry!

Who—
But...

Well,
I'd
better
get
going.

Actually,
maybe
it
really
was
someone
else?

and
she's
like a
different
person.

I have
some
family
matters
to take
care of.

It
was

really
her.

She left
before I
could de-
termine

Oh...

Pardon
me?

Why do
I feel like
I've been
given the
brush-off
before I
even real-
ized I was
in love?

The
Moon

is
hiding
now.

clouds at
midnight
blocked
the light,

all lost in
moonlit
shadow.

We
met by
sheer
chance,

but
before
I could be
certain
who you
really
were,



Ah... I wish
I could just
melt away
into the
darkness.

.....
Awph.
What a
joke.

I know
it's not
rational,

physically or
emotionally,

even though
she means so
much to me.

I can't
force her
to stay
with me,

but it still hurts.



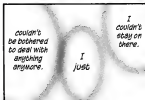
murasaki shikibu



house call



going astray



practically a threat



too late



mostly mentally



yes



having a breakdown

back to the present



a ready reply



Like mother, Like Daughter





reading
people's
feelings.

But...
I don't
know the
first thing
about



and slight
me again.
your life is
forfeit.

.....
If you
should
forget my
words

What a
predica-
ment
indeed.

and
god, a
lady-in-
waiting.
What a
predica-
ment.



Yes,
my
lady.



GOOD IDEA



GOOD WORK





Whose is iiiiiiit?

a disaster

this whole chapter
will be like this

Quite a
situation
we have
here.

Hmm...



Mmm,
delicious
soup.

What
is that?

...
You're
pregnant,
Your Maj-
esty?

My
life is
ruined!
Waa-
ah!

Mura-
sabi? Mura-
sabi!!!



Kooo
...

In more
than one
way...

...Yes,
clearing
this up
will be
quite the
task.

You
mustn't
let her
affect
you,
Your
Majesty.

I
wonder
what
she's
dreaming
about.

three options

always terrible



It's inevitable now

If you don't have a busy mind, you'll be able to see the third panel.



In one brief moment



Impulse



(benkan is recovering)



her transformation



you probably saw this coming

she instinctively
knows she can't win

You'll
thank
me when
you've
come back
to your
senses!

It's
time I
put a
stop to
this,
Shona-
gon.

Well, I
suppose
I don't
have
much
choice,
then.

So
that's
what
happens
when
she
drinks.

Sh-
Shona-
gon---

Operation: Protect Her Virtue

*Come
here!*
♡

You
can do
what-
ever
you'd
like with
me!

We've
come to
pay you a
visit!

Cousin!

How
can
you
jump
that
high?!

Yaaaay!
Mura-
saki
shiki-
bouu!

Why
are you
running
away?
?!

It's
dark.





❖ chapter 24 ❖



Deja Vu

a mysterious battle

...Ruh?
You can't
get your
hands out
either...

How
naïve.

With this
position,
you've
sealed
your own
defeat.

Don't
think I'll
let you
shame me
again so
easily.

She...
stopped
me?!

That's
even more
naïve than
my outlook
on life.

You think
you've
won, just
because
you
stopped
me once?

Heh.
Surely
you
jest.

I don't
need to
use my
hands.

Have
you
forgot-
ten?

NO!
I WON'T
GIVE UP!
NOT SO
LONG
AS THOSE
MOUNTAINS
STILL
STAND!!

EITHER
WAY,
I WILL
PUT AN
END TO
THIS!

Eek!

Cheers!

I
want
to join
in!

Sh-
Shona-
gon-
...

Mura-
saki?
Mura-
saki.....
Mura-
saki!!!

Spectators.

beheading

(the other
gentlewomen were evacuated)

Sort
of!

Do you
think you
can get
away with
whatever
you want
just be-
cause
you're
drunk?!

Sei
shon-
gon...

Sto-

Wouldn't
that
include
swinging
a sword
around
inside?!

Well,
there
are
limits
to
every-
thing!?

You know,
I think the
value of
breasts
lies in their
adoration.

MMMMMM.
So warm.

Don't
try and
weasel
out of
...

Don't
balk
while
your
head
is in
there...

Ah!
Stop

Exposed
breasts
are just
lumps of
flesh,
Miss.

My, my

That's
enough!



the characters keep changing('・ω・')

making things worse

You
need
to snap
out of it,
Shona-
gon!



*I'm sorry,
Murasaki
Shikibu. I'll
give you a
proper apology
later, but
right now,
there's a
more pressing
matter...*



Uhh
Murasaki
Shikibu,
I'm
terribly
sorry
...

Sexy!

That
you're
going
around
touching
everyone!



What
are
you so
growly
about,
anyway,
Berkan?



Wow,
what
☆
a view!
♡

No, I—
You
Idio—



Oh,
are you
jealous?
Is this
jealousy?
That's
adorable!



Ah...

Augh
...

Hey,
that's
my
job!



Start an like subtitles



Anaka.
Don't
worry,
you're
ready
to old
weld
ing—

You be
quiet!

Who
will
have me
as his
bride
now?!

sisters-in-law



enjoying the show



getting back to the second
step of the previous chapter

oops



a certain someone



Oh, dear





It's
New
Year's
Day,

but
Teishi



is
with Sei
Shondou
again,
isn't
she?



I
hate
her!

That
idiot!

"Wake up."



Though I'd be with them keeping it up to them the point of you know what I want!

◆fuiwara no noriko◆

she's around 28 in this manga, below takako and senkan,
but above shonagon and murasaki. in a number of ways.

I made too many changes to her, too, but let's not
worry about that. please don't pay it any mind.

you've seen what she and michinaga are like in this manga.
if i get the chance, i'll write about why they got together.
somebay.





◆ fūji ◆

she's an amalgamation of a number of murasaki shikibu's friends (of a sort), from a variety of documents i read.
she's basically an airhead.

when i was creating this character, i did too much research on murasaki shikibu. my heart shifted to her, despite my 10-year loyalty to sei shōnagon. i like them both now.

.....what was i talking about, again?

Sorayomi Daichi



AFTERWORD

HELLO, I'M KUZUSHIRO.

WE'VE MADE IT TO THE SECOND VOLUME, BELIEVE IT OR NOT. IT INVOLVED MORE TRIAL AND ERROR THAN VOLUME 1, AND I PLAYED AROUND WITH THINGS MORE... AND LESS... AND WAY TOO MUCH. AS USUAL, THERE ARE A LOT OF IMPERFECTIONS, BUT I'M DOING MY BEST TO IMPROVE, SO PLEASE BEAR WITH ME....

A GAZILLION THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO READ THIS, AND TO SORAYOMI DAICHI-SENSEI FOR THE AMAZING ILLUSTRATION (ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE) THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE REAL FOCUS OF THE STORY.



◆ *Special Thanks:*
Sorayomi-sensei
Suzuki-san

◆ *Editing:*
Yano-san

◆ *Manga:*
Kuzushiro



HOW
MANY
YOU'RE
ABOUT AS
GOOD AT
PACING
PERFORMANCES
AS THE
ARTIST IS AT
FOLLOWING
THROUGH ON
THINGS!

YOU
THINK
THERE
WILL BE
A THIRD
VOLUME
SINCE
THERE WAS
A SECOND?
YEH YEH...

Kimino tamenara shineru(2)
©KUZUSHIRO/takeshobo

Published by Takeshobo Co.,Ltd
2-7-3, Iidabashi Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN
<http://www.takeshobo.co.jp>

This book is a work of fiction. Names, places and incidents are either a product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means physical or digital without permission in writing from the publisher.

Thank you for choosing this book.

Translator: Erin Subramanian
Editor: Erica Friedman

